

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the members of Liberal Judaism (ULPS) - known as Council, held on Sunday 1st July 2018 at The St Johns Hotel, 651 Warwick Road, Solihull, B91 1AT

Subject to sections 26-32 of the Memorandum and Articles of Liberal Judaism (ULPS)

| | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| PRESENT | |
| PRESIDENT/ VICE PRESIDENTS | Rabbi Dr Andrew Goldstein, Monique Blake, Rabbi Harry Jacobi, Rosita Rosenberg |
| OFFICERS (DIRECTORS) | Simon Benscher (Chair), Graham Carpenter, Ruth Seager, Rosie Ward, Robin Moss, Ros Clayton, Karen Newman |
| RABBIS | Danny Rich (Chief Executive), Charley Baginsky, Janet Burden, Pete Tobias, Elli Tikvah Sarah, Aaron Goldstein, Margaret Jacobi, Richard Jacobi, Charles Middleburgh |
| COUNCIL | Geoffrey Ben-Nathan (Bedford), Sue Head (LJS), Phyllis Alden (Manchester), Jane Greenfield (Southgate), Leslie Moss (NPLS), Jane Carpenter (Reading), Frank Maxwell (Birmingham), Adam Addison (York), Judith Fox (WCLS), Karen Katz (BHPS), Josie Kinchin (FPS), Miriam Levene (Leicester), Ruth Selo (Eastbourne), Richard Stevens (ELELS), Alison Turner (Herefordshire) |
| IN ATTENDANCE | Becca Fetterman, Carrie Shaw, Shelley Shocolinsky-Dwyer, Hannah Stephenson, Tom Rich, Rafe Thurstance (minutes), Simon Lovick, Alexandra Simonon, Yszi Hawkings, Bryan Diamond (LJ Hon. Archivist), Tamara Joseph, David Selo |
| 1 | <p>OPENING PRAYER</p> <p>Rabbi Pete Tobias gives a blessing to the meeting, and calls for our communities to be more open, and open to compromise; like the Houses of Hillel and Shammai.</p> |
| ANNUAL REPORT/AGM | |
| 2 | <p>WELCOME AND APOLOGIES</p> <p>DR opens the meeting by welcoming Chair, Simon Benscher who calls immediately on DR to announce apologies.</p> <p>APOLOGIES were received from Mimi Konigsberg, Alan Solomon, Joan Shopper, Jerome Freedman, Louise Freedman, Stuart McDonald, Bob Kamall, Lucian J Hudson, Janet Berkman, William Glassman, Peter Garden, Ed Herman.</p> |
| 3 | <p>MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, HELD ON 4TH JULY 2017</p> <p>Richard Stevens (ELELS) proposed some changes, but it was quickly ascertained that these were to the accounts, not the minutes. Frank Maxwell proposed that there were no amendments to be made, this was seconded by the floor.</p> <p>The Chair signed the minutes as an accurate record.</p> |
| 4 | <p>ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR THE BOARD to fill the vacancies of: Chair, Deputy Chair, Vice Chair, Officer for Youth, Officer for Social Justice, and three Officers without portfolio.</p> <p>Simon Benscher was elected unanimously as Chair. Ruth Seager was elected unanimously as Deputy Chair. Karen Newman was elected unanimously as Vice Chair.</p> |

| | |
|---|--|
| | <p>Graham Carpenter was elected, with one objection, as an Officer. Ed Herman was elected unanimously as an Officer. Jane Drapkin was elected unanimously as Officer for Social Justice.</p> <p>DR thanked all outgoing officers for their time, efforts, and service. He proposes that members read the latest copy of LJ Today for more information on the BoNO.</p> <p>SB thanked the AGM for their vote of confidence, and noted that he is looking forward to continuing his position as Chair.</p> |
| 5 | <p>PRESENTATION OF THE REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2017 – Rosie Ward and Rabbi Danny Rich</p> <p>DR informed that AGM that he would be presenting a comprehensive report of Liberal Judaism’s activities in 2017, and hopes for 2018 coming out of that year. He presented to the AGM that LJ is currently operating with a financial surplus, and is continuing to build reserves as was promised at the last AGM; he noted that BoNO has the intention of creating a financial reserve funded by £25,000 of deposits per annum for the next 10 years.</p> <p>DR informed the AGM that BoNO has already approved the financial reports as required by the Charity Commission, and that they are circulated to the AGM as a gesture of transparency.</p> <p>The floor asked DR if LJ is now fully compliant with recent GDPR changes; DR answered affirmatively, and gave all credit to SSD for her calm and professional handling of all the changes.</p> <p>RW reported that a great start had been made on the reserve funds by having an annual surplus of c. £30,000 in 2017.</p> <p>She reported that there had been a £50,000 increase in fundraising spending on the previous year, and presented a visual representation of income and expenditure which she indicated would be sent out to the AGM once they had been signed off.</p> <p>Richard Stevens asked for sentences on pages 5 and 6 to be completed where information was missing, and asked for clarification in the document whether the ‘biennial’ being discussed was the EUPJ one, or the LJ one.</p> <p>DR informed the AGM that he hoped that once finalised and sent out, the reports would give a clearer than ever representation of what is going on financially at LJ.</p> |
| 6 | <p>CHAIRMAN’S REPORT – SIMON BENSCHER</p> <p>SB reiterated his desire, which he has had since taking the position, for LJ to operate with a financial surplus year on year; and therefore create a reserve fund.</p> <p>SB thanked the Montagu Centre staff for their hard work in ensuring that things tick over, and offered particular praise for Rabbi Charley Baginsky for her enthusiasm and networking skills.</p> <p>SB informed the AGM of his feeling that the word ‘multitasking’ should have been invented for the MC staff. He expressed gratitude on behalf of LJ to the MC staff for all they have done and continue to do for the movement.</p> |

| | |
|---|--|
| | <p>SB informed the AGM of his gratitude for the LJY-Netzer team under the direction of BF, and for his fellow officers. He also expressed his thanks to Carrie Shaw for her work on the Israel Desk, and to Geoffrey Marx, with whom he has been able to speak with a unified voice when necessary, for his cooperation.</p> <p>The Chair expressed his pride in having been co-chair of LBC for a brief period.</p> <p>SB noted that DR will be back from sabbatical following the AGM and expressed kudos once again to the MC staff, especially SSD and CB for ensuring that LJ has a loud, progressive, and varied voice.</p> <p>Rabbi Harry Jacobi testified that SB loves LJ with all his heart, might and soul, and paid tribute to him for his passion and continually going the extra mile.</p> |
| 7 | <p>CHIEF EXECUTIVE’S REPORT – Rabbi Danny Rich</p> <p>DR opened his report by stating that he has “the best job in the world”, and noted his immense pride in working for the movement.</p> <p>DR paid tribute to the staff at the MC, especially CB and SSD who stepped up and worked amazingly as he had expected.</p> <p>DR thanked the movement rabbis, and communities. He praised the partnerships they create and maintain.</p> <p>SB noted that having DR at the helm of LJ was both a gift and a challenge, and expressed his gratefulness at DR’s presence.</p> |